Mrs. JFK's Peace Plea To Moscow Revealed

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NEW YORK, Aug. 28 (AP) On her last day in the White House, Mrs. John F. Kennedy wrote a letter in longhand to then-Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev expressing, as a mother of two children, her hopes for peace, it was reported today.

The incident was excerpted by Newsweek magazine from the book, "The Death of a President," written by William Manchester. The book will be published by Harper & Row in January.

The book had been compiled with the help of the Kennedy family and, according to Newsweek, Manchester received a letter from Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D.-N.Y.), guaranteeing no family interference in its contents.

"There are 200 page one stories in it," Newsweek quoted one source as saying.

Among the disclosures are that after swearing in President Johnson aboard Air Force One in Dallas, Judge Sarah Hughes handed the Kennedy family Bible upon which the oath was given to a man she assumed to be a Secret Service agent.

He was not, the book reported, and no one knows who he was. The Bible has never been found.

Although there has been no family interference in the contents of the book, there was some trouble over Look Magazine's plan to condense it to a seven-part serial, Newsweek reported. It said "Mrs. Kennedy was fearful serialization would subject her children and herself to an unduly prolonged spate of newspaper stories."

Under the plan finally worked out, Look will carry the book in four installments, starting in January.

Newsweek quoted a Look executive as saying:

"The kind of material in it doesn't usually find its way into print. This is the best of the Kennedy books. It's extraordinarily strong. The President is going to have to read it and I don't think he's going to like it."

Manchester, a former newspaperman, spent two years compiling material for the book, Newsweek said. He then submitted it to a panel of five ex-New Frontiersmen —but to no member of the Kennedy family—and blue-penciled most portions they objected to on the basis of propriety or violation of national interest.